

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting with New Shoreham Sewer Commission**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2013**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Present:** First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Kenneth C. Lacoste, Council members Sean J. McGarry and F. Norris Pike. Also present were Town Manager Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Land, Sewer Commission personnel and members: Engineer Jim Geremia, Attorney Blake Filippi, Superintendent Chris Blane, Committee members Peter McNerney, Wayne Batty, Allan MacKay, Steve Draper, Brad Marthens, Tom Doyle, Sandra Finizia and for the recording of minutes, Deputy Town Clerk Millicent McGinnes. Town Council member Christopher G. Warfel was absent.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**1. Receive and act on request of New Shoreham Sewer Commission for town-wide bonding for all or some of \$3,000,000 for Sewer District expenses including**

- **Replace or upgrade equipment**
- **Repairs and modifications buildings and grounds**
- **Improvements to pump stations**
- **SCADA**
- **Replace Force Main**
- **Replace Utility Truck**

Ms. Gaffett noted that absent Council member Chris Warfel submitted a memo dated April 23, 2013 regarding the bonding request from the Sewer Commission. She explained that the memo represented his opinions (attached). Ms. Gaffett asked for and received confirmation that the letter had been read by the Town Council, the Sewer Commission members, the Town Manager, Engineer Geremia and Attorney Filippi. Ms. Gaffett questioned if anyone would like to have the letter read aloud and those present indicated that it was not necessary.

Sewer Commission Chair Peter McNerney explained that the Sewer Commission needed a \$3,000,000 bond request to be placed on the Warrant for the upcoming Financial Town Meeting to cover needed capital improvements and upgrades. He suggested that the abutters (sewer rate payers) pay a portion and the non-abutters (non-sewer users) pay a portion. It was later noted that the Sewer Commission had not taken a formal position (through a vote) on the request.

Engineer Jim Geremia reviewed a memo he wrote to the Sewer Commission dated April 3, 2013 outlining the desired capital improvements and maintenance needs for the Sewer Department and dividing the list into Priority No. 1 and Priority No. 2 (attached). A detailed discussion ensued.

It was noted that the when the Sewer District was enlarged in the 1980's, the tax burden for the upgrades was split between the abutters and non-abutters in a 4 to 1 ratio respectively. Town Manager Dodge explained that the Sewer Commission did not have the authority to tax without new legislation from the RI State legislature. Finance Director Land stated that another taxing option exists, made up of two components: 1) Warrant item requesting bonding authority for the Sewer Commission to bond; and 2) Warrant item requesting bonding to be covered by the taxpayers for the benefit of the sewer facility. Discussion proceeded.

Ms. Gaffett moved to add a two component Warrant item requesting bonding for a total of \$1,000,000, with sewer rate-payer bearing \$800,000 and the entire tax base bearing \$200,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pike and carried.

4 Ayes (Gaffett, Lacoste, Pike, McGarry)    0 Nays    1 Absent (Warfel)

**2. Consider and act on bonding issues to the Warrant for May 6, 2013 Financial Town Meeting**

Town Manager Dodge noted that an item has been added to the Warrant requesting bonding for up to \$240,000 to be used for improvements and renovations to the Fred Benson Town Beach solely to serve as a match to a potential DEM grant. The Council asked that language be added to ensure that the funds are only expended if a matching grant is received for at least \$100,000.

**3. Approve Warrant for May 6, 2013 Financial Town Meeting**

Finance Director Land presented a draft of the Warrant including language for the additional \$1,000,000 sewer bond.

First Warden Gaffett moved to approve the Warrant as discussed, subject to review from the solicitor and bond counsel. Mr. Pike seconded the motion and it carried.

4 Ayes (Gaffett, Lacoste, Pike, McGarry)    0 Nays    1 Absent (Warfel)

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Lacoste made a motion to adjourn at 4:49 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gaffett and carried.

Millicent McGinnes, CMC  
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved:    May 15, 2013